

5. ON A COLLECTION OF LONG-EARED BATS OF THE GENERA
OTONYCTERIS PETERS AND *PLECOTUS* GEOFFROY
(FAMILY: VESPERTILIONIDAE) FROM KASHMIR VALLEY

During the course of extensive collections of bats made by me in Kashmir Valley during the period 1976-1986, several specimens of long-eared bats were collected from Hari Parbat Hill, Shankaracharya Hill and adjacent areas in Srinagar city. On examination these were found to belong to the Vespertilionine genera *Plecotus* Geoffr. and *Otonycteris* Peters.

Otonycteris hemprichi Peters (Hemprich's Long-eared bat) is a remarkable bat which is an inhabitant of extremely barren and arid regions, whose distribution ranges from Kashmir and Russian Turkestan through Persia and Asia Minor to the Arabian peninsula. In North Africa it extends from Egypt through Libya to Tunisia and Algeria. Very little detail has been recorded of its habits in the region. Cheesman (1920) noted that this bat has been found in buildings but its natural habitat seems to be narrow crevices under overhanging stones in the sides of steep magmatic hills, as described earlier by Zahavi and Wahrman (1957). These findings are in conformity with mine, as all the specimens collected by me came from the steep sides of Shankaracharya Hill in Srinagar city.

Plecotus austriacus Fischer, the Grey Long-

eared bat, is a cavern-dweller which inhabits tunnels in the flanks of barren mountains in Kashmir Valley. Specimens of this bat were collected from Hari Parbat Fort area at Srinagar. It has been previously recorded from northern and southern Israel. Aharoni (1930) noted it from the Dead Sea basin and Tristram (1866) from the Sea of Galilee. The precise range of the species has not been fully determined in relation to *P. auritus* Linn. It is found in Europe including Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Germany, Rumania, Austria, Yugoslavia, Corsica and Corfu, the Ukraine and probably the Caucasus, Transcaucasia, Armenia and Russian Turkestan, as well as Asia Minor. It is also known to occur in Persia, Afghanistan and the Arabian peninsula. It ranges to Egypt, N. Sudan, Cyrenaica, probably south to Eritrea and Abyssinia and probably west to Tunisia, Algeria and the Canaries. Forms may be referable to this species extend eastwards to Siberia, China and Japan, but a good deal of research is needed before the specific affinities and distribution of the various described forms can be elucidated. It was first recognised as being present in England as recently as 1963 and its range in Britain is confined to a small area on the south coast of England (Burton 1982).

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6. UNUSUAL NEST SITE OF A THREE STRIPED PALM SQUIRREL, *FUNAMBULUS PALMARUM* AT POINT CALIMERE

On 28th November 1986, around 1410 hrs. we saw a three striped Palm squirrel carrying a young one in its mouth, under a Palmyra tree near our office campus. It was followed by another squirrel. The young one was held by its back and was slowly carried towards the Palmyra tree followed by the second adult. The squirrel climbed the tree with the other following when it reached the edge of the crown it waited there, within a minute the second squirrel climbed over the crown and started looking beneath. The young one was

released and made to climb over the crown and to a leaf-stalk followed by the parent and both of them disappeared into the leaf fold. After this event the adult which was waiting below the crown rushed down to the ground and disappeared. After a few minutes, with the help of a local man who climbed the Palmyra tree, we confirmed the presence of the young one with one of its parents in the nest which was located on the leaf fold. This nest site is unusual and unrecorded before.

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7. A NOTE ON THE POST-PARTUM REPRODUCTION IN THE SHORT-TAILED BANDICOOT RAT (*NESOKIA INDICA*)

The occurrence of pregnancy during lactation and a lactation-controlled delay in blastocyst implantation in the rat and mouse have frequently been documented (Lamming 1978). In this, the female experiences a period of heat and even ovulates a few days after the parturition. If there is a successful mating during this period, the pregnancy may occur

even when it is lactating. We have observed a few similar cases in the colony of the short-tailed bandicoot rat, *Nesokia indica*.

The rats were collected from the fields and were maintained in our animal house for experimental purposes. They breed successfully in captivity under natural photoperiod and temperature conditions and show breeding